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Largest Security Union Says Measure Introduced in House Today Would Make U.S. Airports More Secure

“With Strong Federal Control, More Training, and Strict Standards for Screeners, New Legislation Borrows Best Practices from Europe and Israel”

Congress shows signs of moving in the right direction to make airports more secure as House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) and Aviation Subcommittee Chair John Mica (R-Florida) today introduce legislation to improve the way pre-board screeners are hired, trained, and supervised.

The coordinated approach in which a federal law enforcement officer would be stationed at every checkpoint to supervise screeners employed by private companies is supported by leaders in the House of Representatives, the President, Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta, and aviation security experts throughout the world.

“This legislation borrows the best security practices from airports in Europe and Israel – strong federal control, more training, and strict standards for the screeners that travelers rely on to help keep air travel safe,” said Andrew L. Stern, president of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), America’s largest union of airport security workers and the largest union in the AFL-CIO.

In much of Europe, public authorities hire professional private security companies oversee their work, and pay enough to have a stable, experienced screener work force.

Airport security workers in the U.S. have been asking for years for improvements that they need to be able to protect public safety, testifying at public hearings and meeting with airline and airport authority officials.

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